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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 13, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable HENRY CUELLAR to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2019, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties. All time shall be equally allocated between the parties, and in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

I RISE TO DEFEND DACA RECIPIENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise. And still I rise because I love my country.

And today I rise to defend those who are recipients of the DACA program. I rise to defend these young people because, unfortunately, bigotry is being weaponized against them.

I rise because the Chief Executive Officer has indicated that there are hard-

ened criminals among them, but he does it in such a way as to demean and defame all of them. He does it on the day that the Supreme Court of the United States of America is considering a case with reference to DACA recipients.

I rise to defend them. These are young people who came to this country at a very early age. They did not come of their own volition. These are young people who have been screened and vetted. These are young people who have gone on to get good educations. These are young people who are contributing to our society.

So I rise to defend the DACA recipients. I rise because I understand what is going on. This Chief Executive Officer is not going to stop. This is just another phase of his attempts to weaponize bigotry, hatred, racism.

He did it with the Muslim ban, weaponizing religion. He did it with the s-hole countries, weaponizing race. He did it with some "fine people" among those in Charlottesville where a woman lost her life, weaponizing anti-Semitism.

And he has done it repeatedly and will not stop. He went on to do it with the ban on transgender persons in the military, weaponizing homophobia.

This is not going to stop. We must move to impeach this President.

I am proud to say that history, now, is going to record that, on this day, witnesses appeared to give testimony with reference to why the President should be impeached. That is how the testimony is going to be presented.

I am not proud that this is happening. I love my country. I don't want this to happen in my country.

I didn't come to Congress to be a part of an impeachment effort against the President, but when a President attempts to weaponize race, bigotry, xenophobia, Islamophobia, homophobia, that President ought to be impeached—and he will be.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

IMPEACHMENT MUST NOT BECOME WEAPONIZED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MITCHELL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker, the House of Representatives most certainly faces a vote to impeach the President before the end of this year. I urge my colleagues to carefully and deliberately contemplate this next step in their votes.

The Constitution provides great latitude to this body in impeaching a President. It is up to us, all 435 of us in this Chamber, to determine what constitutes a "high crime and misdemeanor," and those determinations clearly vary greatly among us.

As we cast those votes, we must consider our place in history and the implications of those votes in the future of this Republic.

Alexander Hamilton warned of the risks of impeachment becoming a partisan act. In Federalist No. 65, he wrote of his fear that, during impeachment, "... there will always be the greatest danger that the decision will be regulated more by comparative strength of parties, than by the real demonstrations of innocence or guilt." I fear the proceedings have not heeded this warning.

Impeachment was never designed to be a supplemental election process but, rather, a safety valve to be used in the rarest of occasions when an elected official acts in such an immoral and blatantly unlawful manner as to threaten the very basis of our Republic.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to remember this as they assess the interviews, depositions, and hearings that are unfolding today and their impending vote on impeachment.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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